

### ***Intentional and Unintentional Wrongdoing***

- Why are wrong actions and attitudes a problem?
  - They hurt people (self and others)
  - They deface/disfigure God's creation, taking from His glory
- What are examples of **intentional** wrong actions or attitudes?
- What are examples of **unintentional** wrong actions or attitudes?
- If they are unintentional, are they still wrong? still sin?

### ***Intentional and Unintentional Wrongdoing***

The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold,  
but the LORD tests the heart.

*Proverbs 17:3*

I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. **My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent.** It is the Lord who judges me. ... **He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart.**

*1 Corinthians 4:3-5*

crucible = container for melting metal

## *Intentional and Unintentional Wrongdoing*

- Unintentional wrong attitudes and actions...
  - still do harm
  - still harm our relationship with God and others
  - still make us guilty
- Pray that God would...
  - expose our illnesses, like a good doctor
  - AND bring healing
  - help us see our errors, like a good coach or teacher
  - AND help us grow into better attitudes and actions

## **Eating like Jesus**

**1 Corinthians 11:17-34**

**A letter to the church  
in Corinth  
that was unaware of  
or unconcerned about  
wrong attitudes and actions**



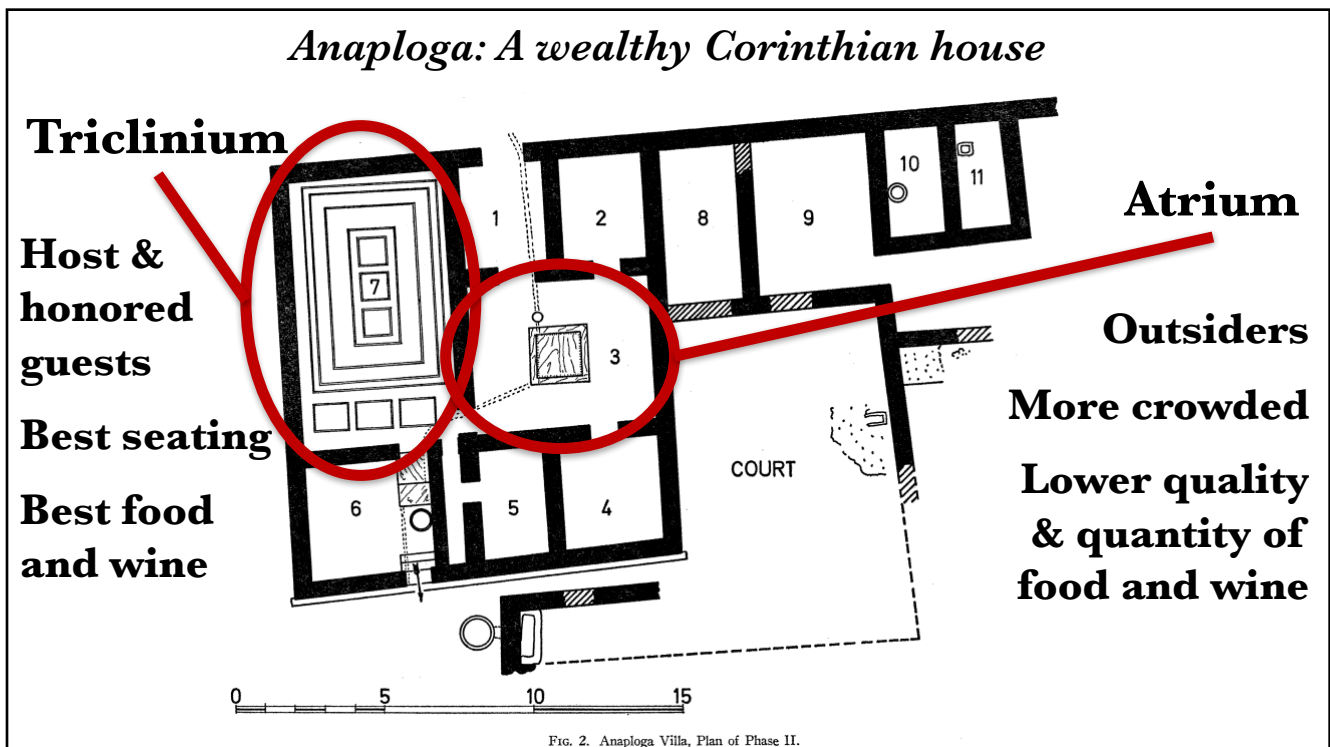


### *Meals in the Ancient Near East*

- Symbolic significance for showing honor or separation
  - Jews weren't allowed to eat with non-Jews (Gentiles)
  - Jews weren't allowed to eat with half-Jews (Samaritans)
- Ranking of guests for honor and importance
  - Expressed in seating arrangement
    - Much space required for “reclining at table”
  - Expressed in quality and quantity of food and drink
  - Involved reciprocity: had to invite those who invited you

### **Triclinium (“3 couches”)**





Like Crossway and much of the world today, first century churches did not have their own buildings

- Church events took place...
  - in synagogues or the Temple (initially)
    - Jewish places of worship
  - in houses of wealthier people, or in rented rooms (later)
- Practices in the houses or rented rooms became part of the practices in the church
  - This sometimes resulted in something different from what God intended



*1 Corinthians 11:17-34*

17-22: Church meals did more harm than good

- Divisions + Wealthier ignored the needs of poorer

23-26:

27-32:

33-34a:

34b:

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23-26: Lord's Supper: Jesus' self-sacrifice for broken people

- "Remember"="Let this shape your living"  
– Not simply being aware of & accepting facts

27-32: – "Remember that the roads are icy"

- Proclaim the Lord's death & His promised return

33-34a:

34b:

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27-32: So: Align your acts and attitudes with Jesus

- Serious consequences for "moral disconnect"
- Learn to see God's design and our shortcomings
- Come to Lord's Supper for grace and strength

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33-34a: So: When church gathers, give preference to others

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33-34a: So: When church gathers, give preference to others

34b: Smaller issues can be dealt with later...

***The Big Idea***

At the center of Christianity  
is Jesus' self-giving self-sacrifice  
for people who don't deserve it  
which is celebrated in the Lord's Supper  
and enacted by the Lord's people

### *Application*

- The church should “proclaim” its distinctive qualities
  - Central distinctive quality
    - Jesus Christ sacrificed for people who don’t deserve it
    - in order to restore their fellowship with God and others
  - This should be proclaimed in the words, relationships, and activities of the church

### *Application*

- The church should “proclaim” its distinctive qualities
- Especially during...
  - Lord’s Supper
    - “Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.” *1 Corinthians 10:17*
  - “Love Feasts” (February 4)

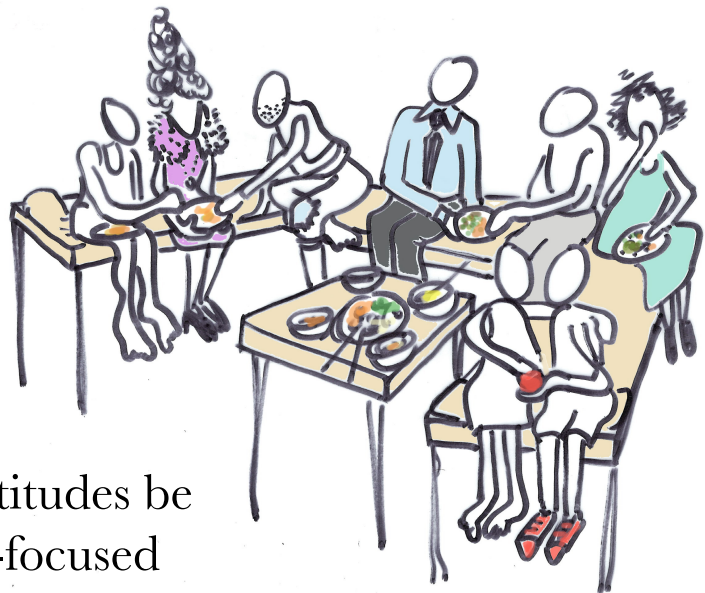


### *Application*

- The church should “proclaim” its distinctive qualities
- Especially during Lord’s Supper and “Love Feasts”
- Actively work to...
  - Detect conscious and unconscious roots of division
    - Prejudice & bias: implicit and explicit
      - Pursue more healthy contact with humility (seeking first to learn and to understand and to value them)
    - Selfishness
  - Cross ‘natural’ boundaries

### *Am I eating (and talking and serving and ...) like Jesus?*

- How am I participating in or adding to separations in the church?
- How can I be looking out for and helping with the needs of others?
- How can my actions and attitudes be more self-giving and others-focused like Jesus?



### *Magnetism*

- An invisible force that pulls together or pushes apart
- Naturally and unavoidably...
  - We are attracted to some people (a lot or a little)
  - We are pushed away from some people (a lot or a little)
  - We tend to ignore or not even see some people
- Supernaturally, and by choice/obedience...
  - See and treat each person as God sees him or her
    - Broken person made in the image of God  
invited to be forgiven and transformed in God's grace
    - A gift of God to me, in His wisdom, **especially** differences

### *The Big Idea*

At the center of Christianity  
 is Jesus' self-giving self-sacrifice  
 for people who don't deserve it  
 which is celebrated in the Lord's Supper  
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**DOING THIS BRINGS ABUNDANT LIFE TO US AND TO OTHERS,  
 IN THE BLESSING OF GOD AND FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS!**